

REMARKS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 10, 11, 43-45, and 47-58 are now in the application. Claims 10, 11, 43-45 and 47-49 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. New claims 50-58 have been added to provide Applicants a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-9, 12-42, and 46 have been previously or currently cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 10, 11, 43 and 56-58 are independent.

Support for these amendments can be found at page 4, lines 12-25 (discrete dispersion compensators), and page 3, line 30, to page 4, line 2 (optical pulses having time-bandwidth products greater than that of Gaussian-shaped pulses) of the specification.

In the Office Action of March 30, 2004, Claims 10-14, 17-20, 36-38 and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. As for the cancelled claims, this rejection has been rendered moot. As for Claims 10 and 11, the phrase “the nonlinear length of the system” has been deleted.

Claims 10, 12, 17, 19, 36-38, and 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Nakazawa, Elec. Lett. 31, p.216 (1995). Claims 11, 13-14, 18, 20, 22-32 and 43-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa. Again, as for the cancelled claims, these rejections have been rendered moot.

Concerning amended independent Claims 10 and 11, Applicants submit that Nakazawa does not teach or suggest an optical communication system having one or more discrete dispersion compensators, as recited therein.

Concerning amended independent Claim 43, Applicants submit that Nakazawa does not teach or suggest the propagation of an optical pulse having a time-bandwidth product greater than that of a pulse that is Gaussian in shape, as recited therein. Nor would this propagation have been obvious from prior art nonlinear optical communication systems, which conventionally used optical pulses having time-bandwidth products between that of a hyperbolic secant-shaped pulse and a Gaussian-shaped pulse.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 10, 11 and 43, and claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Nakazawa. Applicants further submit that new method claims 56-58 are patentable over Nakazawa for similar reasons as Claims 10, 11, and 43, as set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request early allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

In this regard, Applicants note that they are now being represented by Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, Customer Number 05514. A Revocation and New Power of Attorney will be submitted shortly.

In the meantime, please change the correspondence address, and direct all further correspondence, to the new address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Sharrott', written over a horizontal line.

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